

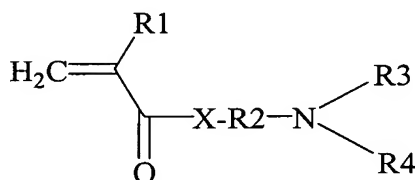
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An antimicrobial polymer blend,

characterized in that

one or more antimicrobial polymers each obtainable by polymerizing a monomer of the formula I



where

R1 = -H or -CH<sub>3</sub>

R2 = branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

R3 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

R4 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

R5 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, and

X = O, NH, NR<sub>5</sub>

are mixed with at least one other polymer other than cellulose acetate butyrate and polyesters.

Claim 2 (Original): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 90% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the monomer used of the formula I is 2-tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-dimethylaminomethyl methacrylate, 2-tert-butylaminoethyl acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N-3-dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-diethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide, or N-3-diethylaminopropylacrylamide.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the monomer used of the formula I is 2-tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-dimethylaminomethyl methacrylate, 2-tert-butylaminoethyl acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N-3-dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-diethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide, or N-3-diethylaminopropylacrylamide.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the other polymer used comprises polyurethanes, polyolefins, polyethylene, polypropylene, poly-siloxanes, polystyrene, polyacrylates, polymethylmethacrylate, PVC, polyamides or polyterephthalates.

Claims 6-12 (Cancelled):

Claim 13 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the monomer of formula I comprises acryloyloxyamines ( $X = O$ ).

Claim 14 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the monomer of formula I comprises alkylaminoacrylamides ( $X = NH$ ).

Claim 15 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein  $R_3$  and/or  $R_4$  is hydrocarbon.

Claim 16 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 70% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 17 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 10% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 18 (New): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial polymers are prepared by free-radical polymerization of monomers of formula I in solution using a free-radical initiator.